



Ambassador Jeffrey L. Bleich – FBI NAA Retrainer Convention

**Remarks of Ambassador Bleich
at the FBI National Academy Association Asia Pacific Chapter
Retrainer Convention, Sydney**

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Thank you for that kind introduction. It's a privilege to be here today and to address distinguished law enforcement officers from across the Asia Pacific region. I'd like to take a moment to recognize New South Wales Treasurer, the Hon. Michael Baird, NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione and NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services Michael Gallacher for hosting this event and allowing me to address you all. I'd like to thank Michael in particular for his assistance this past weekend and the bravery and professionalism of the NSW police and AFP in defending our consulate.

As the American Ambassador, I'd like to especially some of our finest: FBI Deputy Assistant Director Elizabeth Fries; FBI National Academy Association President Diane Scanga; representatives from the United States Pacific Command, and others too numerous to mention. I'd like to thank each of you for your support of this important event, which will enhance the strength and security of the Asia-Pacific region.

Now, my friend Agent Blevins, from the FBI, suggested that I start out with a lawyer joke because both he and I are lawyers. But I don't actually tell lawyer jokes. Because lawyers don't find them funny, and other people don't know they're jokes. Also, I've worked with the FBI for a number of years, mostly on background checks for people getting confirmed by the Senate. And I'd have to say from experience that it isn't a good idea to joke around with FBI agents when they are working. It usually ends with some one saying "it was a youthful indiscretion, Senator. I regret it deeply."

What you all do -- implementing the rule of law -- is serious business. The three critical foundations that every nation needs are: economic opportunity, access to the political process, and the rule of law. The lovely words and protections and promises of fair treatment are meaningless without confidence that they will be enforced against everyone equally, no matter who. In fact, in the U.S., when President Nixon authorized a criminal cover-up, it was the deputy director of the FBI who exposed it and helped unseat the President. That integrity is one of the core values of our nation, and it is why the FBI is universally respected, across the political spectrum.



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As nations rise in this region, our ability to ensure integrity in law enforcement will be essential to ensuring that all nations can resolve differences without resorting to force. The rule of law and its enforcement will be essential to the stability of this region.

I know the people in this room understand the rule of law and the important role your respective agencies play in establishing and maintaining stable, peaceful and prosperous societies. You also understand better than anyone else, the risks, costs, and challenges facing our legal systems.

The first is that with the capacity of criminal networks to cause dramatic harm on a mass scale, we can't wait until after a crime has been committed to respond. Today, we expect law enforcement not simply to solve crimes, but to prevent them.

Many of the people sitting in this room worked on investigations into terrorist events in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania on 9/11 or the terrorist bombings in Bali on 12 October 2002. As competent as these investigations were, today's law enforcement agencies are not just asked to investigate who committed a heinous act and determine how the act was carried out. Today, your agencies are asked to prevent such acts from occurring. Furthermore, you are asked to keep these acts from occurring while also protecting the rights of individuals and groups who may fall under investigation. This may seem like an impossible tension. But later this week you will receive a behind-the-scenes look at Operation Neath. This case study demonstrates that countering terrorism while protecting civil rights -- while hard -- is a unique strength of the law enforcement community. It provides a credibility and a moral authority that enhance everything else you do. This strength makes you and your agencies critical to long-term success in countering terrorism and establishing societies where grievances are settled in just courtrooms and change is brought about through a balanced and fair political process.

It is not just mission creep which challenges today's law enforcement agencies. The job is also harder because today's criminals have access to the same technologies and trends that are empowering individuals around the globe. The Internet can enable cyber criminals to defraud innocent victims halfway around the globe or to penetrate the business accounts of legitimate businesses in order to steal their money, ideas, and customer lists and other secrets. The same smart phones, tablet computers, and wireless networks that connect us through Facebook, Twitter, Skype, linked in, and other internet portals also make us potential targets and can complicate detection of criminals. For example, computer encryption and myriad communications platforms not only empower legitimate connections between individuals and businesses, they can also hide the actions of nefarious communications from investigations. Sadly, the miracles of modern



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technology are all too often used to help bad guys to transmit child pornography or to conceal the communications of extortionists, fraudsters and organized criminals.

Countering the misuse of today's technology would be easy if we could simply eliminate access to those powerful tools. But to do so would be to shut down our societies as well. So the challenge for law enforcement is to police and prevent misuses while maintaining society's access to these technologies. Again, this challenge is daunting, but presentations this week regarding "Going Dark," economic espionage, intellectual property theft and social networking demonstrate our sophistication about today's problems and offer tools and methods to successfully address the challenges before us.

It is not just new technologies that are being used by well-funded and savvy criminal groups, it is advanced procedures and techniques. Organized crime is a business. It studies businesses and borrows the most efficient elements of legitimate business. Global supply chains aren't used just by IBM and General Motors to improve efficiency. These same strategies are adopted by criminal cartels to conceal the international trafficking of drugs, weapons and exploited human beings. Pattern analysis and market research aren't used just by Coca-Cola and Apple to tailor products to consumer tastes. These same tools are used by sophisticated organized crime groups to develop spear phishing schemes. They figure out people's friends and interests in order gain access and then penetrate computer networks and steal financial assets and valuable intellectual property. Global access to financial markets and technology to improve liquidity and the movement of capital do not just help governments, banks, investment firms, and their customers. Global financial systems are also used by terrorist groups and organized crime to conceal the proceeds of illegal activity and covertly move funds to facilitate and execute their nefarious schemes.

All of those pose a serious threat to your agencies. That's why presentations this week from the DEA and the AFP will describe how law enforcement can still overcome these sophisticated criminal organizations. But it depends on the topics of this conference and training -- creative partnerships, enhanced detective work and innovative analysis and investigation.

As a chief of mission, I know that every one of our law enforcement successes involved every one of our law enforcement resources. We depend on a true law enforcement community. I believe you will find a common theme to this week's valuable presentations. That theme is the importance of the law enforcement community working together across international and jurisdictional boundaries to address today's sophisticated criminal enterprises. As criminal groups purposefully structure their conspiracies in multiple countries around the globe, law enforcement agencies and officers must network



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like never before. Formal structures such as Interpol, Europol, and the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Center are critical to our collective ability to address criminal groups who operate across regions and borders. Agencies such as the FBI, the AFP and the DEA which are able to position liaison officers around the globe also play an important role.

In the past three years, we've achieved the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth largest drug busts in Australia's history, by partnering together. Together we've stopped shipments of nuclear materials, drugs, arms, and trafficking in persons. In today's complex global environment, informal structures are of critical value. What do I mean by that? I mean that one of the important parts of this training experience is for you to go out and have a beer together. For those of you interested in having a beer with Agent Blevins, he prefers fruit beers, like raspberry.

But really, when detectives in different agencies find their investigations intersect, they can either throw sand in each others gears or work together to put oil in the larger law enforcement machinery. The decision is about trust. It helps to know each other, and so that too is part of the value of this conference. When these same detectives help each other, the power of this networking grows exponentially.

We can't afford not to work together because criminals do. They use the same routes and contacts to traffic goods, illegal arms, nuclear materials, and people. For traffickers, organic networking makes these criminal groups more effective and harder to stop. Law enforcement officers have to have at least the same power of networking. Working together, is having intelligence, training together, and cooperating operationally, is critical to countering today's sophisticated criminal threats.

I know there is probably no one in this room who doubts the power of a good law enforcement network. If you did, you wouldn't be here at the Asia Chapter of the FBI's National Academy Association. It's a testament to you and your organization that you were selected to be part of this network training. I believe the benefit of this network will grow tremendously as a result of this retrainer. This week presents an opportunity not just to train and improve our personal intellectual skill set. It also presents a tremendous opportunity to improve each of our personal networks so that we can more effectively pursue the interests of justice and counter international criminals.

So in closing, I wish to again thank NSW Commissioner Scipione and NSW Police Minister Gallacher. Their support and sponsorship to this conference will no doubt strengthen us all beyond the sum of our parts as we learn together and become mates with officers and agents from other agencies. Finally, I would like to thank each of you. I thank you not only for making the effort to be here and participate in this fine event, but for the work you do each and every day. Your integrity, your competence, your courage



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and your dogged service to the cause of justice are a bulwark against the evil elements of society. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all you do to establish and uphold the rule of law.